

We've finished the April 26, 2016 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of April 26, 2016.

The forecasts are posted at: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up>.

#### **Forecast Summary:**

The projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 52 percent on the Tule River to 99 percent on the Stanislaus River. Because the one precipitation event of the past week affected northern and central California much more than the southern third of the range, the forecasts for the Feather, Yuba, and American rivers rose 5 or 6 percent compared to the previous forecast while the forecasts for rivers south of the Merced remained unchanged.

#### **Runoff:**

Through the first 26 days of April, all rivers from the Yuba through the Kings are flowing at a rate greater than 100 percent of average. The central state rivers from the Mokelumne through the Merced rates are over 115 percent. The Tule and the Kern rivers are flowing at less than 55 percent of average.

#### **Precipitation:**

The storms last week produced over an inch for the northern half of the state. Precipitation for the 2015-2016 water year accumulated at the following rates of average:

Region/Index	WY accumulated precipitation in percent of average through April 28, 2016	April 1-28, 2016 accumulated precipitation in percent of the average total for April
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	121 (54.6 inches)	69 (2.7 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	105 (38.6 inches)	78 (2.8 inches)
Tulare Basin 6-Station Index	95 (25.2 inches)	62 (1.6 inches)

#### **Snowpack:**

The snow continues to melt off at a strong and steady pace in most mountainous regions of the state. The snowpack as of the morning of April 28, 2016 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr 1)	% of Average (April 28)
Northern	14.6	51	67
Central	16.7	58	69
Southern	10.3	39	47
Statewide	14.3	51	63

#### **Weather and Climate Outlooks:**

The 6-day weather forecast predicts precipitation Thursday-Monday with no more than 0.5 inch of total precipitation falling over the six-day period. Today the central and southern Sierras can expect less than 0.1 inch of precipitation. On Friday, the central Sierras can expect less than 0.1 inch. On Saturday, the central and Southern Sierras can again expect less 0.1 inch of precipitation. On Sunday, the entire Sierra Nevada can expect up to 0.1 inch of precipitation with a cell focused over the Stanislaus and Tuolumne basins that can expect up to 0.25 inch. On Monday, the northern Sierras can expect less than a 0.1 inch

of precipitation. Freezing levels are at their lowest today and tomorrow near 8,500 feet and will increase over the six-day period up to 10,000 feet in the northern and central Sierras and 11,000 feet in the southern Sierras.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for May, issued April 21, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation over the entire state excluding the Central Coast, Southern Coast, and Inland Mediterranean climate region; where equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. Temperatures are expected to be above normal over all of California.

The CPC three-month (May-June-July) outlook, issued April 21, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation for the entire state except for the very southern part of the state where equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. The three-month forecast also predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide.

El Niño is present and is weakening. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies continue across most of the Pacific Ocean. A transition to ENSO-neutral is likely during late Northern Hemisphere spring or early summer 2016, with an increasing chance of La Niña during the second half of the year.

**Next Update:**

The next Bulletin 120 and Water Supply Index forecast for conditions as of May 1 will be available May 9. If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff.